

Making Guide

Paper Shape Play: Shadow Mobiles

- 1** Find objects that have interesting shapes around your home. The examples used here are kitchen utensils but it could be any object that inspires you.



- 2** Draw shapes inspired by them onto your paper. Some ideas of how to do this:
- lay your utensil on the paper and trace around it
 - use your light source (torch or sun) to project a shadow onto your paper to trace around, playing with angles and scale
 - you could draw a particular part of it: a pattern or section of its shape.



- 3** Cut out the shapes and as you work through this process, new shapes, patterns and designs might emerge. Go with it! Some methods you could try out:

- folding your paper and cutting shapes into it, unfold to reveal a pattern
- repeating a form like a swirl or zig zag. To create a swirl, cut long paper strips and run it between the edge of your ruler and thumb (take it slow to avoid paper cuts). For a zig zag, fold your paper strips into a concertina.
- bending, curling, wrapping paper strips to mimic your objects. Connect pieces with glue.



- 4** Once you have a few paper shapes, it's up to you! You could make a collage out of them, turn them into a costume or make a sculpture out of them.



To make a shadow mobile:

1. Create your structure which your shapes will hang off. This could be 2 chopsticks or twigs crossed over and tied together in the middle with string.
2. Start threading shapes with a paperclip and string.
3. Attach and arrange them on your mobile base.
4. Attach another string at the middle of your mobile so it can hang somewhere.
5. Play with shining a torch through and moving it to see what further shapes emerge. Does it change how your space feels? Is there a sunny spot that it could live in during the day?

